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Book Review  
Professor Schwartz

### Design for a Living World

Opening the beginning pages of this book, the reader sees beautiful, high resolutions photos of ordinary things from around the world. Even though the subject matter is basic (scenery, plants, and people), the colors show the exceptionality from the ordinary as if the viewer is really there. Photographs in the book are placed according to area, those involved, and their material or object. The overall purpose of this book is to make a connection about design to the natural world through awareness. Mark Tercek, President and CEO of The Nature Conservancy, stated, "Today, we find that we stand at the threshold of a depleted world" (page 19). Moving forward with today, we (people of the world) still have the ability to change the impacts we created. There is an unfortunate disconnect of food and fiber from nature; unknowing of how, where, or why we make everyday products.

Ten distinctive designers were asked to develop new uses for sustainably grown and harvested natural products. Beginning with the products place of origin, the developed product function was required to reflect the corresponding natural landscape. Each place chosen for a new product design was due to a limiting destructive feature (i.e. deforestation). These product designs are one repercussion for the necessity to conserve our surroundings in addition to the stories of these places, people, plants, and animals living there. Here are a few examples of this story.

Southern Australia landscape is sparse and dessert-like with few plants, most notably eucalyptus. Gondwana Link project covers 620 miles of land attempting restoration with the help of organizations and native people. Designer Stephen Burks was asked to travel and work in southern Australia with the indigenous Noongar Aborigine people. Raspberry jam wood, sandalwood, and quandong are wood materials traditionally used by these natives although scarce in landscape these days. Burks design was simple but very effective carved from jam wood to collect and process plant material (seeds, nuts, berries, twigs) for locations, salves, etc. Within in the totem piece is a grinding mechanism with to compartments separating sorted ingredients and those dispensed. He extended his product line including a soap dispenser, bath salt container, and lotion processor/container.

Bolivia is located in the middle of the South American continent known for the Amazon forest. The southern landscape of Bolivia is a much drier, scrub forest name Chiquitano Dry Forest home to the indigenous Guarayo people. Illegal and destructive logging is occurring for the expansion of agriculture due to increasing community sizes. Paulina Reyes, a designer for kate spade new york, traveled to Bolivia to take lead designing handbags using morado wood, handwoven cotton, and jipijapa (fiber made from palm leaves). Paulina observed, "The structure of the team as far as production goes is way more developed than distribution..." and continued saying, craftspeople create products that never go to market. She hopes through awareness of these facts distribution and market expansion will come to these people soon.

I really liked this book because the problem was clearly stated with possible solutions and who can help. I believe in the need to preserve the worlds' cultures. I hope, aside from nature conservation, we help others respectfully preserve their history and tradition since we wouldn't want to lose ours.